

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Warren County Multiple Resources Nomination  
Warren County, Kentucky

City of Bowling Green

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 3 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 18 1979

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Thematic Nomination  
Brinton B. Davis Buildings on the  
Western Kentucky University Campus

Wa-B-203-214

In 1909 the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State Normal School employed Brinton B. Davis as building architect and Henry Wright as landscape architect. That same year Davis and Wright drew the Master Plan for the campus. None of the buildings of Potter College existing on the site at that time were kept in the Master Plan, and very few features of the plan were adopted as drawn. The concept of clustering the principal structures around the summit of College Hill did survive, however, and three of the structures shown were built in roughly the same location in much the same form as in the 1909 plan.

Brinton B. Davis was born in Natchez, Mississippi, in 1862 and died in Louisville in 1952. His major structures were in Louisville during the period 1905-1940, and his twelve buildings on the Western Kentucky University campus were built between 1910 and 1937. Although Davis preferred Renaissance styles in general and Georgian in particular, he occasionally moved toward Art Deco styling in the latter part of his career.

1909 Master Plan  
Western Kentucky State Normal  
School  
Brinton B. Davis and Henry Wright

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The twelve Brinton B. Davis structures on the Western Kentucky University Campus are architecturally significant because they constitute one of the few instances in Kentucky in which the same architect worked on both the master plan of a college and a number of subsequent structures on the campus. Although the Davis structures are judged individually eligible for the National Register as significant works by a major early twentieth century Kentucky architect, their collective significance is perhaps greater. Collectively, the buildings illustrate the wide variety of classical styling available to architects in the first third of this century and the modifications made by the same designer over a thirty-year period to the master plan of a major regional university. Because the four post-1930 structures (Wa-B-203, -206, -20~~X~~<sup>4</sup>, and -211) are closely related to and contribute to the architectural significance of the eight pre-1930 structures, because the four that are less than fifty years old greatly increase the awareness of the stylistic changes that took place both in the career of the architect and in the building stock of the university, they warrant listing as exceptions to the rule that structures must be at least fifty years old.